
Southeast Idaho UPDATE



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 10

May 2001

Cleanup to Begin at H&M Oil Site in Pocatello

This fact sheet is to inform you about upcoming environmental cleanup work at the H&M Oil, Inc. oil storage facility in Pocatello, ID. The cleanup is scheduled to begin the week of May 7, 2001, and is expected to take 4 to 5 days to complete. During the cleanup, you may see workers wearing white protective clothing and respirators to protect them while they are in close contact with the oily wastes present at the site.

What is the problem?

In the early 1990s, a company known as H&M Oil, Inc. began collecting and storing waste oil at the site. The company solidified the oil and transferred it to other facilities for recycling. However, the facility appears to have been operating without permission of the property owner, and repeatedly failed to address environmental concerns identified by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and EPA.

Although the facility is no longer operating, there are still several above-ground storage tanks and drums that contain waste oil and sludges at the site. EPA is concerned because access to the site is not restricted, and the tanks and drums are not being routinely inspected for maintenance. Also, in the event there were a major spill from one or more of the tanks, the tank holding area is not large enough to prevent oil from escaping containment and potentially reaching the the Portneuf River, which is about 200 yards from the site. There is also evidence that spills from past operations have left contaminated soil on the property.

Where is the site located?

The facility is located on the triangular piece of land at the intersection of West Maple, First, and Madison Streets.

What is EPA planning to do?

An EPA contractor will be performing the following cleanup activities at the site, with oversight from the EPA On-Scene Coordinator:

- Waste oil, water, and sludges contained in drums and three large above-ground storage tanks will be collected and properly disposed of;
- The three above-ground storage tanks will be dismantled and removed from the site;
- Contaminated soil will be removed and replaced with clean soil.

What will happen to the site after it has been cleaned up?

After the tanks and contaminated soil have been removed, the property will be clean and can be productively used in the future.

Questions? Feel free to call the EPA staff listed below if you would like to know more:

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